

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is complete and replaces all prior versions. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the liver-type fatty acid binding protein is derived from kidney tissue.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the specimen is kidney tissue or urine.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, which further comprises a step of comparing the test result with that of a control specimen, said control specimen being collected from a human having normal kidney tissue, or collected from a human having the same kidney disease but showing different symptoms or different progress.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the antibody specifically binding to the liver-type fatty acid binding protein is an antibody that does not cross-react with a heart muscle-type fatty acid binding protein.

10-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosis or prognosis of a kidney disease in human, which comprises the steps of:

(a) preparing a specimen collected from a human;
(b) detecting liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and
(c) diagnosing or prognosing the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b), wherein said specimen is kidney tissue or urine.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the step (b) is carried out by

(i) contacting the specimen with an antibody specifically binding to liver-type fatty acid binding protein;
(ii) separating unbound antibody from the antibody bound to said protein; and
(iii) detecting the antibody bound to said protein.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the existing level of liver-type fatty acid binding protein in the specimen is diagnostic or prognostic of the kidney disease.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, which further comprises the step of comparing the test result of the specimen with a different specimen collected from the same human at different stage, and examining the change with the lapse of time.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the kidney disease is a chronic renal disease.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the kidney disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephritis, nephrotic syndrome, focal glomerulosclerosis, immune complex nephropathy, lupus nephritis, drug-induced renal injury, renal insufficiency and kidney graft rejection.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the immune complex nephropathy is selected from the group consisting of IgA nephropathy and membranous nephropathy.

24. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing the progression of kidney disease in a patient suffering therefrom, comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;
- (b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and
- (c) diagnosing the progression of the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b), wherein said specimen is kidney tissue or urine.

25-26. (Cancelled).

27. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the specimen is urine.